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RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4634  
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC  
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA  
RHMFIUU/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS TAIPEI 000588

SIPDIS

STATE PASS OES/IHA, OES/IHB FOR AMB LOFTIS, HHS FOR MARK  
ABDOO, BANGKOK FOR CDC BAGGETT

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TAGS: [AEMR](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KFLU](#) [KFLOA](#) [TBIO](#) [TW](#) [CH](#)

SUBJECT: TFFLU01: MAY 15 H1N1 VIRUS UPDATE FOR TAIWAN

REF: TAIPEI 515

¶1. Taiwan continues to have close calls with the H1N1 virus from arriving airline passengers who have been in proximity to H1N1 carriers on their journey. As of noon, May 15, however, there are still no confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus in Taiwan. At the CKS International Airport May 12, seven passengers who shared the same plane from San Francisco to Taipei with a H1N1 carrier were tracked down later. The seven people underwent tests and showed a negative reaction to the H1N1 test. As of noon May 15, 176 cases have been monitored and 165 have tested negative for the H1N1 virus. The remaining 11 are pending test results.

¶2. Ministry of Health officials met with AIT on May 13 and said they had requested the U.S. CDC provide Taiwan with a sample of the vaccine strain of the H1N1 virus (also known as "California 5") which they need to develop and produce an H1N1 vaccine in Taiwan. The Minister of Health also asked for US FDA assistance in their vaccine certification process.

AIT contacted the US FDA, via the Department of State Office of Taiwan Coordination, regarding Taiwan's request. At the direction of the U.S. FDA, AIT has provided Taiwan with the e-mail address of the Manufacturers Assistance and Technical Training Division at FDA, which handles such requests, so that Taiwan can submit a written request directly. Taiwan plans to produce 10 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine before Fall, to be prepared should the virus return during that time. TCDC hopes to be able to produce enough doses to donate for WHO distribution to countries in need.

¶3. The Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs revised Mexico from Red alert status (the most dangerous) to Orange, reflecting that H1N1 outbreaks in that country have stabilized. Countries that have been added to the yellow alert list with findings of H1N1 cases, include Cuba, Finland, Hong Kong, PRC, Canada and the U.S. Currently only Mexico is on orange alert and 31 countries are still listed in the yellow alert list.

¶4. At a MOFA sponsored briefing on H1N1, a Ministry of Health official told the assembled diplomats that Taiwan will not adopt the drastic quarantine policy practiced in Hong Kong. She referred to the first H1N1 case discovered in a Hong Kong Hotel which was sealed off with all its current occupants for a week. Instead, Taiwan policy would emphasize supervised home stay and monitoring for those who had been in the proximity of an H1N1 case. Those exhibiting fever symptoms and testing positive for H1N1 would still be quarantined at the medical facility treating them.

¶5. Health authorities are also working with Academia Sinica,

Taiwan's premier research institute, to learn more about pandemics, contagious diseases, virology, culturing of drug strains and computer simulation. If situations warrant, these Academia Sinica experts may be asked to help at the TCDC's emergency command center.

YOUNG